

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Early Intervention Committee Meeting

February 13, 2007

DRAFT*Minutes*DRAFT

In Attendance: Sarah Souders, Tesa Bunsen, Mary Dietz, Bev Ingram, Meghan Johnson, Onna Johnson, Erin Kinavey and Sharon Schumacher

Quorum: Established. :

Staff: Millie Ryan

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair, Sarah Souders at 11:35 a.m.

Announcements: Sarah announced that Donna Swihart returned home from the hospital earlier that day. It was also announced that Senator Murkowski was appointed to the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pension (HELP) Committee, which means she will have a greater opportunity to ensure programs and funding levels meet the needs of Alaskans.

Agenda and Minutes Approval: The agenda was approved unanimously (motioned made by Sharon and seconded by Tesa) as were the December 14-15, 2006 minutes with corrections to two typos (replaced "retuned" with "returned" and "HLP" with "HELP" (motion made by Sharon and seconded by Tesa)

Chair's Report: Sarah reported that she spoke to Larry Swihart. Donna is doing much better.

Staff Report: Millie reported that Kathy Fitzgerald, Kathy Alley and she made presentations on early intervention and Autism Spectrum Disorders before the House and Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committees and the Children's Caucus the week of February 5-9. Millie will e-mail copies of the fact sheets, position papers and PowerPoint presentations to the EIC members. Representative Anna Fairclough recommended that the Council add a pediatrician to its membership. EIC members were asked to identify potential pediatricians to join the EIC.

Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program: Erin Kinavey reported on the upcoming training for early intervention staff, which is scheduled for February 20-22. Training will be offered on a variety of topics, including training on findings from the early childhood outcome pilots (9 months of data are available from the 3 pilot sites and financing strategies. Erin is continuing to explore private insurance billings although a legislative champion will be needed. The Request for Proposals for a cost study should be out soon. She is working with Michelle Lyons-Brown on Medicaid billing (e.g., developmental therapy). Erin reported that the Part C State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Program Report (APR) is on-line for public comment. The EI/ILP program is re-vamping the website as means of securing local or regional

data. State EI/ILP regulations will need to be revised to be in compliance with new federal Part C requirement; as an aside, they have not been revised since 1985. The regulations re-write will provide a potentially good opportunity to look at incorporating Medicaid services at the same time. A regulation planning group will be established; the policy piece will be contracted out but the regulations themselves will be written by Department of Health & Social Services staff. Erin also reported on the Early Childhood Comprehensive Services plan, particularly as it relates to early childhood mental health; they are looking to build on what is being done in Juneau through Juneau Youth Services and are exploring whether REACH will be able to bill Medicaid services for young children through Juneau Youth Services.

619 Program: Sharon Schumacher reported that the Part B SSP and APR is on the Department of Education & Early Development's website for public review and comment; indicators 6, 7 and 12 deal specifically with preschool. There are some concerns with Indicator 12 in that Part B and Part C are not reporting the same percentage. There are two breakout sessions at the Alaska State Special Education Conference on the SSP and early childhood outcomes. Staff is working on a two-page special education plan for each district to report how they did on each of the 14 indicators. Special education regulations are being re-written to comply with changes to federal law; it is anticipated that the State Board of Education & Early Development will approve them by summer. The special education program received a personnel center grant to recruit and train special educators, para-educators and related personnel; a series of meetings will be held over the next few months. Monitoring reviews will be conducted in the Denali and Skagway school districts in February and the Galena, Kuspuk and Mat-Su school districts in March. There were a total of 13 due process hearing, 7 complaints and several medications over the past year; none of them dealt with pre-school. Sharon and Erin worked together to combine training on the ECHO Center and early childhood outcomes (e-modules).

AILPA: Bev reported that AILPA will meet the following week and will be making a donation to the Key Campaign. AILPA is getting ready for Key Campaign and was wondering about the status of the Hands document, which includes numbers served and dollars spent on EI/ILP.

ATTI: A very successful training was held in Nome; they are working on networking issues. Bethel training is scheduled for March 6-7; they are having a hard time getting the right people there. An ATTI presentation will be made during the state special education conference.

Head Start: Dorothy Erickson was not available.

University of Alaska: Tesa Bunsen reported that a 3-credit summer class on infant mental health will be held the week of June 18 will be taught by Erin Kinavey and Charles Zeanah from Tulane University.

Behavioral Health: Pam Miller was not available.

Old Business: The workplan was discussed. It will be re-worked to get more specific on action steps and sent out to EIC members for review at the next EIC meeting.

New Business: There was no new business.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for March 13 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.